

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Rasmussen *et al.*

Attorney Docket No. ACAS-1-1037

Serial No. 10/786,583

Group Art Unit: 3617

Filing Date: February 23, 2004

Examiner: Russell D. Stormer

Title: SNOWMOBILE DRIVE TRACK

Confirmation No. 4358

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS:

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed April 14, 2008. Favorable reconsideration of pending claims is requested in view of the following amendment and response.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 5.


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IN THE CLAIMS:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) An endless drive track for a snowmobile, comprising a base and traction lugs integrally formed with the base, the traction lugs extending upward from the base and extending across a width of the base,

wherein the traction lugs are inclined relative to normal to the base and wherein the traction lugs comprise a first set of traction lugs inclined away from a track travel direction and a second set of traction lugs inclined toward a track travel direction.

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) An endless drive track for a snowmobile, the track having an outer periphery comprising:

a base including an outer side; and

a plurality of traction lugs formed with the base in a unitary construction and extending across a width of the base, each lug having a lower portion proximate and extending outward from the outer side of the base by a first angle of inclination, and at least some of the lugs having an upper portion extending from the lower portion by second angle of inclination relative to the direction perpendicular to the outer side of the base, the second angle of inclination being greater than the first angle of inclination.

wherein the first angle of inclination is in the range from 5 to 45 degrees.

14. (Previously Presented) The endless drive track of claim 13, wherein the first angle of inclination is in the range from 5 to 30 degrees.

15. (Previously Presented) The endless drive track of claim 13, wherein the first angle of inclination is in the range from 5 to 15 degrees.

16. (Currently Amended) The endless drive track of ~~claim 12~~, claim 13, further comprising an inflection point between the upper portion and the lower portion of at least some of the lugs ~~each of the plurality of traction lugs~~.

17. (Previously Presented) An endless drive track for a snowmobile, the track having an outer periphery, the track comprising:

a base including an outer side; and

traction lugs extending outward from the outer side of the base, the lugs comprising a lower portion having a first angle of inclination relative to normal to the base and an upper portion having a second angle of inclination relative to normal to the base, the second angle being greater than the first angle;

wherein the lower portion has a first leading face having a first leading face angle and the upper portion has a second leading face having a second leading face angle, the first leading face angle being about 14 degrees and the second leading face angle being about 20 degrees.

18. (Previously Presented) An endless drive track for a snowmobile, the track having an outer periphery, the track comprising:

a base including an outer side; and

traction lugs extending outward from the outer side of the base, the lugs comprising a lower portion having a first angle of inclination relative to normal to the base and an upper portion having a second angle of inclination relative to normal to the base, the second angle being greater than the first angle;

wherein the lower portion has a trailing face having a first trailing face angle and wherein the upper portion has a trailing face having a second trailing face angle, the first trailing face angle being about equal to 3 degrees and the second trailing face angle being about equal to 11 degrees.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for using an endless track, the method comprising:

providing a snowmobile;

providing a track comprising

a base; and

traction lugs integrally formed with the base, the traction lugs extending upward from the base and extending at intervals across a width of the base, the traction lugs being inclined relative to normal to the base;

selectively securing the track to the snowmobile with one of having the traction lugs inclined toward a track direction of travel and having the traction lugs inclined away from the track direction of travel; and

securing the track to the snowmobile with the traction lugs inclined opposite the previous securement.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the track bears indicia indicating orientations of the traction lugs suitable for hill climbing and deep snow; the selected track lug orientation being based on the intended use of the track in conjunction with the indicia formed on the track.

21.-25. (Canceled)

REMARKS

This is a response to a final Office Action mailed April 14, 2008. Claim 16 has been amended. Claims 12 and 21-25 have been canceled. No claims have been added. No new matter has been added to the application. Claims 7 and 13-20 remain pending. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 7, 13-15 and 17-20.

In addition, Claim 16 has been amended to depend from allowable independent Claim 13. The pending claims are now in an allowable condition.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 12, 16 AND 21-25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

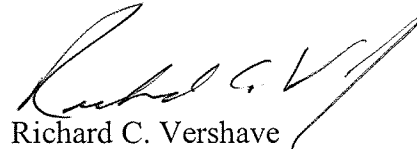
The Examiner rejected claims 12, 16 and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,540,310 to Cartwright in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,771 to Morin *et al.* Of the rejected claims, Claims 12 and 21-15 have been canceled and Claim 16 has been amended to depend from allowable Claim 13. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejections with respect to these claims are moot. Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejections be withdrawn and submit that the remaining claims are in an allowable condition.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATED


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